United Nations A/C.3/61/L.55

General Assembly

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Sixty-first session

Third Committee

Agenda item 41

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions

Azerbaijan, Luxembourg, Namibia* and Sweden: draft resolution

Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Organization of African Unity Convention governing the specific aspects of refugee problems in Africa of 1969[1] and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights,[2]

Reaffirming that the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees,[3] together with the 1967 Protocol thereto,[4] as complemented by the Organization of African Unity Convention of 1969, remains the foundation of the international refugee protection regime in Africa,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General[5] and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;[6]

2. *Notes* the need for African States to address resolutely the root causes of all forms of forced displacement in Africa and to foster peace, stability and prosperity throughout the African continent so as to forestall refugee flows;

3. *Notes with great concern* that, despite all of the efforts made so far by the United Nations, the African Union and others, the situation of refugees and displaced persons in Africa remains precarious, and calls upon States and other parties to armed conflict to observe scrupulously the letter and spirit of international

* On behalf of States Members of the United Nations that are members of the African Group.

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1001, No. 14691.

[2] Ibid., vol. 1520, No. 26363.

[3] Ibid., vol. 189, No. 2545.

[4] Ibid., vol. 606, No. 8791.

[5] A/61/301.

[6] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 12* (A/61/12).

06-61179 (E) 131106

humanitarian law, bearing in mind that armed conflict is one of the principal causes of forced displacement in Africa,

4. *Welcomes* decision EX.CL/Dec.284 (XI) on the situation of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa, adopted by the Executive Council of the African Union at its ninth ordinary session, held at Banjul, the Gambia, on 28 and 29 June 2006;[7]

5. *Expresses its appreciation* for the leadership shown by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and commends the Office for its ongoing efforts, with the support of the international community, to assist African countries of asylum and to respond to the protection and assistance needs of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa;

6. *Recognizes* that, among refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons, women and children are the majority of the population affected by conflict, and in this context notes the conclusion on women and girls at risk adopted by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees at its fifty-seventh session;[8]

7. *Notes* the conclusion on identification, prevention and reduction of statelessness and protection of stateless persons adopted by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees at its fifty-seventh session,[9] which is aimed at enhancing the protection of stateless persons as well as the prevention and reduction of statelessness;

8. *Reiterates* the importance of the full and effective implementation of standards and procedures, including the monitoring and reporting mechanism outlined in Security Council resolution 1612 (2005) of 26 July 2005, to better address the specific protection needs of refugee children and adolescents and to safeguard rights and, in particular, to ensure adequate attention to unaccompanied and separated children and children affected by armed conflict, including former child soldiers in refugee settings, as well as in the context of voluntary repatriation and reintegration measures;

9. *Recognizes* the importance of early registration and effective registration systems and censuses as a tool of protection and as a means to enable the quantification and assessment of needs for the provision and distribution of humanitarian assistance and to implement appropriate durable solutions;

10. *Recalls* the conclusion on registration of refugees and asylum-seekers adopted by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees at its fifty-second session,[10] notes the many forms of harassment faced by refugees and asylum-seekers who remain without any form of documentation attesting to their status, recalls the responsibility of States to register refugees on their territories, and, as appropriate, of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees or international bodies mandated to do so, reiterates in this context the central role which early and effective registration and

[7] See African Union, document EX.CL/Dec.278-314 (IX).

[8] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 12A* (A/61/12/Add.1), chap. III, sect. A.

[9] Ibid., sect. B.

[10] Ibid., *Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 12A* (A/56/12/Add.1), chap. III, sect. B.

documentation can play, guided by protection considerations, in enhancing protection and supporting efforts to find durable solutions, and calls upon the Office of the High Commissioner, as appropriate, to help States to conduct this procedure should they be unable to register refugees on their territory;

11. *Calls upon* the international community, including States and the Office of the High Commissioner and other relevant United Nations organizations, within their respective mandates, to take concrete action to meet the protection and assistance needs of refugees, returnees and displaced persons and to contribute generously to projects and programmes aimed at alleviating their plight and facilitating durable solutions for refugees and displaced persons;

12. *Reaffirms* the importance of timely and adequate assistance and protection for refugees, also reaffirms that assistance and protection are mutually reinforcing and that inadequate material assistance and food shortages undermine protection, notes the importance of a rights- and community-based approach in engaging constructively with individual refugees and their communities to achieve fair and equitable access to food and other forms of material assistance, and expresses concern in regard to situations in which minimum standards of assistance are not met, including those in which adequate needs assessments have yet to be undertaken;

13. *Also reaffirms* that respect by States for their protection responsibilities towards refugees is strengthened by international solidarity involving all members of the international community and that the refugee protection regime is enhanced through committed international cooperation in a spirit of solidarity and burden- and responsibility-sharing among all States;

14. *Further reaffirms* that host States have the primary responsibility to ensure the civilian and humanitarian character of asylum, and calls upon States, in cooperation with international organizations, within their mandates, to take all necessary measures to ensure respect for the principles of refugee protection and, in particular, to ensure that the civilian and humanitarian nature of refugee camps is not compromised by the presence or the activities of armed elements or used for purposes that are incompatible with their civilian character, and encourages the High Commissioner to continue efforts, in consultation with States and other relevant actors, to ensure the civilian and humanitarian character of camps;

15. *Condemns* all acts that pose a threat to the personal security and well-being of refugees and asylum-seekers, such as refoulement, unlawful expulsion and physical attacks, calls upon States of refuge, in cooperation with international organizations, where appropriate, to take all necessary measures to ensure respect for the principles of refugee protection, including the humane treatment of asylum-seekers;

16. *Deplores* the continuing violence and insecurity which constitute an ongoing threat to the safety and security of staff members of the Office of the High Commissioner and other humanitarian organizations and an obstacle to the effective fulfilment of the mandate of the Office and the ability of its implementing partners and other humanitarian personnel to discharge their respective humanitarian functions, urges States, parties to conflict and all other relevant actors to take all necessary measures to protect activities related to humanitarian assistance, prevent attacks on and kidnapping of national and international humanitarian workers and

ensure the safety and security of the personnel and property of the Office and that of all humanitarian organizations discharging functions mandated by the Office, and calls upon States to investigate fully any crime committed against humanitarian personnel and bring to justice the persons responsible for such crimes;

17. *Calls upon* the Office of the High Commissioner, the African Union, subregional organizations and all African States, in conjunction with agencies of the United Nations system, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the international community, to strengthen and revitalize existing partnerships and forge new ones in support of the international refugee protection system;

18. *Calls upon* the Office of the High Commissioner, the international community and other concerned entities to intensify their support to African Governments through appropriate capacity-building activities, including training of relevant officers, disseminating information about refugee instruments and principles, providing financial, technical and advisory services to accelerate the enactment or amendment and implementation of legislation relating to refugees, strengthening emergency response and enhancing capacities for the coordination of humanitarian activities;

19. *Reaffirms* the right of return and the principle of voluntary repatriation, appeals to countries of origin and countries of asylum to create conditions that are conducive to voluntary repatriation, recognizes that, while voluntary repatriation remains the pre-eminent solution, local integration and third-country resettlement, where appropriate and feasible, are also viable options for dealing with the situation of African refugees who, owing to prevailing circumstances in their respective countries of origin, are unable to return home;

20. *Also reaffirms* that voluntary repatriation should not necessarily be conditioned on the accomplishment of political solutions in the country of origin in order not to impede the exercise of the refugees' right to return, recognizes that the voluntary repatriation and reintegration process is normally guided by the conditions in the country of origin, in particular that voluntary repatriation can be accomplished in conditions of safety and dignity, and urges the High Commissioner to promote sustainable return through the development of durable and lasting solutions, particularly in protracted refugee situations;

21. *Calls upon* the international donor community to provide financial and material assistance that allows for the implementation of community-based development programmes that benefit both refugees and host communities, as appropriate, in agreement with host countries and consistent with humanitarian objectives;

22. *Appeals* to the international community to respond positively, in the spirit of solidarity and burden- and responsibility-sharing, to the third-country resettlement needs of African refugees, notes in this regard the importance of using resettlement strategically, as part of situation-specific comprehensive responses to refugee situations, and to this end encourages interested States, the Office of the High Commissioner and other relevant partners to make full use of the Multilateral Framework of Understandings on Resettlement,[11] where appropriate;

[11] Available from www.unhcr.org

23. *Calls upon* the international donor community to provide material and financial assistance for the implementation of programmes intended for the rehabilitation of the environment and infrastructure affected by refugees in countries of asylum;

24. *Urges* the international community, in the spirit of international solidarity and burden-sharing, to continue to fund generously the refugee programmes of the Office of the High Commissioner and, taking into account the substantially increased needs of programmes in Africa, inter alia, as a result of repatriation possibilities, to ensure that Africa receives a fair and equitable share of the resources designated for refugees;

25. *Encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner and interested States to identify protracted refugee situations which might lend themselves to resolution through the development of specific, multilateral, comprehensive and practical approaches to resolving such refugee situations, including improvement of international burden- and responsibility-sharing and realization of durable solutions, within a multilateral context;

26. *Expresses grave concern* at the increasing numbers of internally displaced persons in Africa, calls upon States to take concrete action to pre-empt internal displacement and to meet the protection and assistance needs of internally displaced persons, recalls in that regard the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement,[12] takes note of the current activities of the Office related to the protection and assistance of internally displaced persons, including in the context of inter-agency arrangements in this field, emphasizes that such activities should be consistent with relevant General Assembly resolutions and should not undermine the mandate of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the institution of asylum, and encourages the High Commissioner to continue his dialogue with States on the role of his Office in this regard;

27. *Invites* the Representative of the Secretary-General on the human rights of internally displaced persons to continue his ongoing dialogue with Member States and the intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned, in accordance with his mandate, and to include information thereon in his reports to the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly;

28. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report on assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session, taking fully into account the efforts expended by countries of asylum, under the item entitled "Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions".

[12] E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2, annex.

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Third Committee
Agenda items 117 and 67 (c)

Programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007

Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives

Situation of human rights in Myanmar

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/61/L.38

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

I. Requests contained in the draft resolution

1. Under the terms of paragraph 5 of draft resolution A/C.3/61/L.38, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General:

(a) To continue to provide his good offices and to pursue his discussions on the situation of human rights and the restoration of democracy with the Government and the people of Myanmar, including all relevant parties to the national reconciliation process in Myanmar, and to offer technical assistance to the Government in this regard;

(b) To give all necessary assistance to enable his Special Envoy, once appointed, and the Special Rapporteur to discharge their mandates fully and effectively;

(c) To report to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

06-61219 (E) 131106

II. Relationship of the proposed requests to the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2006-2007

2. The foregoing requests relate to subprogramme 1, Prevention, control and resolution of conflicts, of programme 2, Political affairs, and subprogramme 3, Advisory services, technical cooperation and field activities, and subprogramme 4, Support for human rights thematic fact-finding procedures, of programme 19, Human rights, of the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2006-2007.[1]

III. Activities by which the requests would be implemented

3. In his report to the General Assembly,[2] the Secretary-General indicated that his good offices efforts had encountered considerable difficulties since the event in the last quarter of 2004 concerning the former Prime Minister, which had resulted in a significant reduction of political contacts between the United Nations and the Myanmar authorities, and that political discussions with the Government of Myanmar had been held only outside the country on limited occasions.

4. The Secretary-General also indicated that discussions had continued with a view to finding ways and means to re-establish high-level contacts. As a result, a mission had been dispatched to Myanmar to assess ways to help that country move in the direction of all-inclusive democracy, sustainable development and national reconciliation and to address unhindered access for the delivery of humanitarian assistance. He reiterated his call upon the Myanmar authorities to take the necessary steps to make reform efforts more inclusive and credible when the National Convention resumed and during subsequent phases of the road map process, including those for drafting the constitution and organizing a national referendum. The Secretary-General pointed out that such steps should commence as soon as possible, starting with certain confidence-building measures, and that he was prepared, if progress was made, to do his utmost to mobilize all the necessary international assistance to support the Myanmar authorities in facilitating their national reconciliation efforts in order to ensure that the people of Myanmar could partake in the same benefits of economic, social and political development as were enjoyed in neighbouring countries.

5. Consistent with the requests contained in paragraph 5 of draft resolution A/C.3/61/L.38, the efforts of the good offices of the Secretary-General would be continued in 2007, in pursuit of his discussions on the situation of human rights and the restoration of democracy with the Government and the people of Myanmar, as well as all relevant parties to the national reconciliation process. The efforts of his good offices would be carried out through his Special Envoy and the progress made in the implementation of the resolution would be reported to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session.

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixtieth Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/60/6/Rev.1).

[2] A/61/504.

IV. Estimated resource requirements

6. The estimated costs of continuing the efforts of the good offices of the Secretary-General to facilitate the process of national reconciliation and democratization through his Special Envoy for Myanmar, as requested in paragraph 5 (a), (b) and (c) of draft resolution A/C.3/61/L.38, for a one-year period, from 1 January to 31 December 2007, amount to $198,400 net ($234,800 gross).

7. These resources would cover the salaries for the Special Envoy, to be engaged on a when-actually-employed basis, and for a local staff member who would provide support to the Special Envoy; the official travel of the Special Envoy to Myanmar, neighbouring countries in the region, Europe and North America, including United Nations Headquarters; the services of a consultant; and miscellaneous services in support of his mission. Other substantive and administrative support to the Special Envoy would be provided by the Department of Political Affairs.

8. With regard to the request contained in the last part of paragraph 5 (a), concerning technical assistance, such assistance, if requested, would be accommodated within the technical cooperation activities of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. As to the request contained in paragraph 5 (b), pertaining to the Special Rapporteur, the Secretary-General has informed the General Assembly, in his report on the revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Human Rights Council at its first session and its first and second special sessions in 2006 (A/61/530), that budgetary provisions have already been made for the activities related to the various human rights mandates listed in the annex to Human Rights Council decision 1/102, within resources approved for the biennium 2006-2007. These fall under section 23, Human rights, of the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007.

9. By its decision 1/102, the Human Rights Council decided to extend exceptionally for one year, subject to the review to be undertaken by the Council in conformity with General Assembly resolution 60/251, the mandates and the mandate holders of all the special procedures of the Commission on Human Rights, of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights as well as the procedure established in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII) of 27 May 1970, as listed in the annex to the decision. The Special Rapporteur referred to in paragraph 5 (b) of the draft resolution is included in the annex.

V. Summary

10. **Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.3/61/L.38, additional requirements amounting to $198,400 net ($234,800 gross) would be required for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2007, under section 3, Political affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007, for the continuation of the efforts of the good offices of the Secretary-General relating to the situation in Myanmar. Appropriation for these requirements will be sought in the context of the report of the Secretary-General on estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the Assembly and/or the Security Council, being submitted to the Assembly during its current session.**

United Nations

A/C.3/61/L.57

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Sixty-first session
Third Committee
Agenda item 68
Report of the Human Rights Council

Namibia:* amendments to draft resolution A/C.3/61/L.18

Working group of the Commission on Human Rights to elaborate a draft declaration in accordance with paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 49/214 of 23 December 1994

1. Replace operative paragraph 1 with the following:

   Expresses its appreciation to the Working Group of the Commission on Human Rights for the work done in the elaboration of a draft declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples;

2. Replace operative paragraph 2 with the following:

   Decides to defer consideration and action on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to allow time for further consultations thereon;

3. Insert a new operative paragraph 3 as follows:

   Also decides to conclude consideration of the Declaration before the end of its sixty-first session.

* On behalf of States Members of the United Nations that are members of the African Group.

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Report of the Human Rights Council

Namibia:* amendments to draft resolution A/C.3/61/L.18/Rev.1

Working group of the Commission on Human Rights to elaborate a draft declaration in accordance with paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 49/214 of 23 December 1994

1. In operative paragraph 1, delete the words "and to the Human Rights Council for the adoption of the text of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples".

2. Replace operative paragraph 2 with the following:

> 2. *Decides* to defer consideration and action on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to allow time for further consultations thereon;

3. Insert a new operative paragraph 3 reading:

> 3. *Also decides* to conclude its consideration of the Declaration before the end of its sixty-first session.

* On behalf of States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States.

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United Nations A/C.3/61/L.58

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Sixty-first session
Third Committee
Agenda item 68
Report of the Human Rights Council

Namibia:* draft decision

Report of the Human Rights Council

The General Assembly, reaffirming its resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006, by which it established the Human Rights Council as a subsidiary body of the General Assembly, welcomes the establishment of the Council, and decides to take note of the report of the Council to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session.[1]

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the African Group.

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/61/53).

06-61336 (E) 131106

United Nations A/C.3/61/L.59

General Assembly

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Sixty-first session
Third Committee
Agenda item 67 (b)
Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Azerbaijan:* amendments to draft resolution A/C.3/61/L.45/Rev.1

Extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions

1. Replace operative paragraph 4 with the following:

> 4. *Calls upon* States to prevent extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions and to comply with all their obligations under the relevant international human rights instruments, and reaffirms the importance of the safeguards guaranteeing protection of the rights of those facing the death penalty, as set out in Economic and Social Council resolution 1984/50 of 25 May 1984.

2. Replace operative paragraph 5 (b) with the following:

> (b) *Reaffirms* the obligation of Governments to ensure the protection of the right to life of all persons under their jurisdiction, and calls upon Governments concerned to investigate promptly and thoroughly all cases of extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, including for any discriminatory reasons, to bring those responsible to justice before a competent, independent and impartial judiciary and to ensure that such executions are neither condoned nor sanctioned by Government officials or personnel.

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

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United Nations A/C.3/61/L.60

General Assembly

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Sixty-first session
Third Committee
Agenda item 61
Advancement of women

Draft resolution submitted by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations

Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the question, including resolution 60/140 of 16 December 2005,

Deeply convinced that the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[1] and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[2] are important contributions to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women, and must be translated into effective action by all States, the United Nations system and other organizations concerned,

Reaffirming the commitments to gender equality and the advancement of women made at the Millennium Summit, the 2005 World Summit[3] and other major United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions and reaffirming also that their full, effective and accelerated implementation are integral to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Welcoming progress made towards achieving gender equality, but stressing that challenges and obstacles remain in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session,

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[1] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.
[2] Resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.
[3] See resolution 60/1.

06-61767 (E) 161106

Recognizing that the responsibility for the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session rests primarily at the national level and that strengthened efforts are necessary in this respect, and reiterating that enhanced international cooperation is essential for full, effective and accelerated implementation,

Reaffirming that gender mainstreaming is a globally accepted strategy for promoting the empowerment of women and achieving gender equality by transforming structures of inequality, and reaffirming also the commitment to actively promote the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and social spheres, as well as the commitment to strengthen the capabilities of the United Nations system in the area of gender equality,

Bearing in mind the challenges and obstacles to changing discriminatory attitudes and gender stereotypes, and stressing that challenges and obstacles remain in the implementation of international standards and norms to address the inequality between men and women,

Expressing serious concern that the urgent goal of 50/50 gender balance in the United Nations system, especially at senior and policymaking levels, with full respect for the principle of equitable geographical distribution, in conformity with Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations, remains unmet, and that the representation of women in the United Nations system has remained almost static, with negligible improvement in some parts of the system, and in some cases has even decreased, as reflected in the report of the Secretary-General on the improvement of the status of women in the United Nations system,[4]

Reaffirming the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding,

Reaffirming also its Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS[5] and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS,[6] adopted at the High-level Meeting on AIDS, held from 31 May to 2 June 2006, which, inter alia, acknowledged the feminization of the pandemic,

Noting with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations system-wide policy and strategy on gender mainstreaming of 7 June 2006,[7]

1. *Takes notes with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the subject of the present resolution;[8]

2. *Reaffirms* the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women,[1] the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,[2] and the Declaration adopted on the occasion of the ten-year review and appraisal of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

[4] A/61/318.
[5] Resolution S-26/2, annex.
[6] Resolution 60/262, annex.
[7] E/2006/83.
[8] A/61/174.

at the forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women,[9] and also reaffirms its commitment to their full, effective and accelerated implementation;

3. *Recognizes* that the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the fulfilment of the obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[10] are mutually reinforcing in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women, and in this regard welcomes the contributions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to promoting the implementation of the Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, and invites States parties to the Convention to include information on measures taken to enhance implementation at the national level in their reports to the Committee under article 18 of the Convention;

4. *Calls upon* Governments, the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations, and all sectors of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, as well as all women and men, to fully commit themselves and to intensify their contributions to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly;

5. *Calls upon* States parties to comply fully with their obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Optional Protocol thereto[11] and to take into consideration the concluding comments as well as the general recommendations of the Committee, urges States parties to consider limiting the extent of any reservations that they lodge to the Convention, to formulate any reservations as precisely and narrowly as possible, and to regularly review such reservations with a view to withdrawing them so as to ensure that no reservation is incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention, also urges all Member States that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Convention to consider doing so and calls upon those Member States that have not yet done so to consider signing, ratifying or acceding to the Optional Protocol;

6. *Encourages* all actors, inter alia, Governments, the United Nations system, other international organizations and civil society, to continue to support the work of the Commission on the Status of Women in fulfilling its central role in the follow-up to and review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, and, as applicable, to carry out its recommendations, and welcomes, in this regard, the revised programme and methods of work of the Commission adopted at its fiftieth session,[12] which give particular attention to the sharing of experiences, lessons learned and good practices in overcoming challenges to full implementation at the national and international levels as well as to the evaluation of progress in the implementation of priority themes;

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[9] See Economic and Social Council decision 2005/232.

[10] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

[11] Ibid., vol. 2131, No. 20378.

[12] See Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/9.

7. *Calls upon* Governments, and the relevant funds and programmes, organs and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, and invites the international financial institutions and all relevant actors of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to intensify action to achieve the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, through, inter alia:

(a) Sustained political will and commitment at the national, regional and international levels to take further action, inter alia, through the mainstreaming of gender perspectives, including through the development and use of gender equality indicators, as applicable, in all policies and programmes and the promotion of full and equal participation and empowerment of women, and enhanced international cooperation;

(b) Promotion and protection of, and respect for, the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by women and girls, including through the full implementation by States of their obligations under all human rights instruments, especially the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;

(c) Ensuring full representation and full and equal participation of women in political, social and economic decision-making as an essential condition for gender equality, and the empowerment of women and girls as a critical factor in the eradication of poverty;

(d) Respect for the rule of law, including legislation, and continued efforts to repeal laws and eradicate policies and practices that discriminate against women and girls, and to adopt laws and promote practices that protect their rights;

(e) Strengthening the role of national institutional mechanisms for gender equality and the advancement of women, including through financial and other appropriate assistance, to increase their direct impact on women;

(f) Undertaking socio-economic policies that promote sustainable development and ensure poverty eradication programmes, especially for women and girls, and strengthening the provision of and ensuring equal access to adequate, affordable and accessible public and social services, including education and training at all levels, as well as to all types of permanent and sustainable social protection/social security systems for women throughout their life cycle, and supporting national efforts in this regard;

(g) Undertaking further steps to ensure that the educational system and the media, to the extent consistent with freedom of expression, support the use of non-stereotypic, balanced and diverse images of women presenting them as key actors of the process of development as well as promoting non-discriminatory roles of women and men in their private and public life;

(h) Incorporating gender perspectives and human rights in health-sector policies and programmes, paying attention to women's specific needs and priorities, ensuring women's right to the highest attainable standards of physical and mental health and their access to affordable and adequate health-care services, including sexual, reproductive and maternal health care and lifesaving obstetric care, in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on

Population and Development,[13] and recognizing that the lack of economic empowerment and independence has increased women's vulnerability to a range of negative consequences, involving the risk of contracting HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other poverty-related diseases;

(i) Eliminating gender inequalities, gender-based abuse and violence; increasing the capacity of women and adolescent girls to protect themselves from the risk of HIV infection, principally through the provision of health care and services, including, inter alia, sexual and reproductive health, and the provision of full access to comprehensive information and education; ensuring that women can exercise their right to have control over, and decide freely and responsibly on, matters related to their sexuality in order to increase their ability to protect themselves from HIV infection, including their sexual and reproductive health, free of coercion, discrimination and violence; and taking all necessary measures to create an enabling environment for the empowerment of women and strengthen their economic independence, while, in this context, reiterating the importance of the role of men and boys in achieving gender equality;

(j) Strengthening national health and social infrastructures to reinforce measures to promote women's access to public health and taking action at the national level to address shortages of human resources for health, by, inter alia, developing, financing and implementing policies, within national development strategies, to improve training and management and effectively govern the recruitment, retention and deployment of health workers, including through international cooperation in this area;

(k) Adequate mobilization of resources at the national and international levels, as well as new and additional resources for the developing countries, including the least developed countries and countries with economies in transition, from all available funding mechanisms, including multilateral, bilateral and private sources;

(l) Increased partnerships among Governments, civil society and the private sector;

(m) Encouraging joint responsibility of men and boys with women and girls in the promotion of gender equality, based on the conviction that this is essential to the achievement of the goals of gender equality, development and peace;

(n) Removing structural and legal barriers, as well as eliminating stereotypic attitudes, to gender equality at work, promoting equal pay for equal work, and promoting the recognition of the value of women's unremunerated work, as well as developing and promoting policies that facilitate the reconciliation of employment and family responsibilities;

8. *Reaffirms* that States have an obligation to exercise due diligence to prevent violence against women and girls, provide protection to the victims and investigate, prosecute and punish the perpetrators of violence against women and girls, and that failure to do so violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms, and calls upon Governments to eliminate

[13] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

violence against women and girls and to elaborate and implement strategies in this regard;

9. *Strongly encourages* Governments to continue to support the role and contribution of civil society, in particular non-governmental organizations and women's organizations, in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session;

10. *Resolves* to intensify the efforts of its Main Committees and subsidiary bodies to fully mainstream a gender perspective in their work, as well as in all United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions and in their follow-up processes;

11. *Requests* that reports of the Secretary-General submitted to the General Assembly and its subsidiary bodies systematically address gender perspectives through qualitative gender analysis and, where available, quantitative data, in particular through concrete conclusions and recommendations for further action on gender equality and the advancement of women, in order to facilitate gender-sensitive policy development;

12. *Urges* Governments and all entities of the United Nations system, including United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, and all relevant actors of civil society, to ensure the integration of gender perspectives in the implementation of and follow-up to all United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions and to give attention to gender perspectives in preparation for such events including the upcoming special session on children;

13. *Reaffirms its call* to recently established subsidiary bodies, namely, the Peacebuilding Commission and the Human Rights Council, to integrate attention to gender perspectives into their consideration of all issues in their respective agendas, including the development of their methods of work;

14. *Encourages* the Economic and Social Council to continue its efforts to ensure that gender mainstreaming is an integral part of its work and that of its subsidiary bodies, through, inter alia, implementation of its agreed conclusions 1997/2 of 18 July 1997[14] and its resolution 2004/4 of 7 July 2004;

15. *Welcomes* the ministerial declaration of the 2006 high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council,[15] which, inter alia, underlined the need for the consistent use of a gender mainstreaming strategy for the creation of an enabling environment for women's participation in development,[16] and calls upon all stakeholders to work to ensure full incorporation of gender perspectives in the implementation of the declaration;

16. *Requests* all bodies that deal with programme and budgetary matters, including the Committee for Programme and Coordination, to ensure that programmes, plans and budgets visibly mainstream gender perspectives;

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[14] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/52/3/Rev.1), chap. IV, para. 4.

[15] See A/61/3, chap. III, para. 50.

[16] Ibid., para. 9.

17. *Reaffirms* the primary and essential role of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, as well as the central role of the Commission on the Status of Women, in promoting the advancement of women and gender equality;

18. *Also reaffirms* the commitment made at the 2005 World Summit to the full and effective implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000, while noting the sixth anniversary of its adoption and the open debates in the Council on women and peace and security;

19. *Urges* Governments and the United Nations system to take further steps to ensure the integration of a gender perspective and the full and equal participation of women in all efforts to promote peace and security, as well as to increase their role in decision-making at all levels, including through the development of national action plans and strategies;

20. *Calls upon* all parts of the United Nations system to continue to play an active role in ensuring the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, through, inter alia, the work of the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and the Division for the Advancement of Women and the maintenance of gender specialists in all entities of the United Nations system, as well as by ensuring that all personnel, especially in the field, receive training and appropriate follow-up, including tools, guidance and support, for accelerated gender mainstreaming, and reaffirms the need to strengthen the capabilities of the United Nations system in the area of gender;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to review and redouble his efforts to make progress towards achieving the goal of 50/50 gender balance at all levels in the United Nations Secretariat and throughout the United Nations system, with full respect for the principle of equitable geographical distribution, in conformity with Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations, considering in particular women from developing and least developed countries, from countries with economies in transition and from unrepresented or largely underrepresented Member States, and to ensure managerial and departmental accountability with respect to gender balance targets, and strongly encourages Member States to identify and regularly submit more women candidates for appointment to positions in the United Nations system, especially at more senior and policymaking levels;

22. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to report annually to the General Assembly, under the item entitled "Advancement of women", as well as to the Commission on the Status of Women and the Economic and Social Council, on the follow-up to and progress made in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, with an assessment of progress in gender mainstreaming, including information on key achievements, lessons learned and good practices, and recommendations on further measures to enhance implementation.

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Sixty-first session
Third Committee
Agenda item 110
Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly

Tentative programme of work of the Third Committee, submitted by the Chairman, for the sixty-second session of the General Assembly

Item 1. Social development:

(a) Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly;

(b) Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family;

(c) Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing.

Item 2. Crime prevention and criminal justice.

Item 3. International drug control.

Item 4. Advancement of women:

(a) Advancement of women;

(b) Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly.

Item 5. Promotion and protection of the rights of children:

(a) Promotion and protection of the rights of children;

(b) Follow-up to the outcome of the special session on children.

Item 6. Indigenous issues:

(a) Indigenous issues;

(b) Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People.

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Item 7. Promotion and protection of human rights:

(a) Implementation of human rights instruments;

(b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

(c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives;

(d) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action.

Item 8. Elimination of racism and racial discrimination:

(a) Elimination of racism and racial discrimination;

(b) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action.

Item 9. Right of peoples to self-determination.

Item 10. Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions.

Item 11. Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly.